In re: Wittkotter

Appl. No.: 10/047,275

Filing Date: January 15, 2002

Page 2

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that it has filed concurrently herewith a Petition to Claim Benefit Under 35 U.S.C. 365(c) of a Prior Copending International Application Designating the Untied States of America (37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3)). Applicant requests that upon the granting of said petition, this Preliminary Amendment be entered of record. Applicant further requests that an updated filing receipt be issued showing the priority claim has been entered of record and that the USPTO PAIR system be updated to include this information.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 34,610

CUSTOMER NO. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000

Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

RECEIVED

FEB 2 6 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number 215013916US

Date of Deposit: February 20, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box DAC, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Kay Costanza

CLT01/4577760v1